

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 734

By Shaw

A RESOLUTION urging the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability to coordinate a state communication plan, including a public service announcement that will inform the public about the Tennessee Aging and Disability Resource Center's toll free number (1-866-836-6678) for information and assistance to older persons, adults with physical disabilities, caregivers and professionals looking for services or programs available in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is the intent of this General Assembly to promote a greater awareness of resources available for Alzheimer's disease; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) exists to provide easy access to services and information for older persons, caregivers and professionals; and

WHEREAS, these existing resources are currently not as easily accessible as we would wish; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the Tennessee General Assembly enacted Public Chapter 566 that created the Alzheimer's Disease Task Force; and

WHEREAS, the Alzheimer's Disease Task Force was directed to create a state plan to address the anticipated increase in Alzheimer's disease on Tennesseans; to examine the existing industries, services and resources addressing the needs of persons with Alzheimer's, their families, and caregivers; and to develop a strategy to mobilize a state response to this public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Alzheimer's Disease Task Force did in fact adopt such a state plan which recommended a list of strategies that included the creation of a "comprehensive communication plan to ensure ongoing planning and discussion for coordination of services"; and

WHEREAS, the Alzheimer's Disease Task Force recommended that the appropriate state agencies "use technology and marketing strategies to connect individuals and family to services that are available in their community including services provided from private and public sectors"; and

WHEREAS, more than 5 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease and it is expected to be as high as 16 million by 2050; and

WHEREAS, one in eight people over age sixty-five has Alzheimer's disease and nearly 50% of those eighty-five and older have Alzheimer's disease, or about 2.7 million people; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the sixth-leading cause of death for people in the United States and the fifth-leading cause of death for those over the age of sixty-five; and

WHEREAS, caregiving for individuals with Alzheimer's disease often takes an enormous toll on family members; caregivers themselves often suffer more stress, depression, and health problems than caregivers of people with other illnesses; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the important role the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability should play in the education of the general public about resources for seniors; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, we urge the Commission on Aging and Disability to coordinate the creation and dissemination of a state communication plan, including a public service announcement, that informs the public about accessing services and information, to the extent that this can be done using existing private and public resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage all Tennesseans to raise their awareness on Alzheimer's disease and the effects it has on families and caregivers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability.